



Goose Point/Point Platte Marsh Creation (PO-33)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2004 **Project Area:** 1,384 acres

Approved Funds: \$1.9 M **Total Est. Cost:** \$21.8 M

Net Benefit After 20 Years: 436 acres

Status: Engineering and Design

Project Type: Marsh Creation

Location

The project is located on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain between Fountainebleau State Park and Louisiana Highway 11 and within the Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. The project area at Goose Point also includes a portion of the St. Tammany Wildlife Management Area.

Problems

Interior ponding and, to a lesser extent, shoreline erosion are the major causes of wetland loss in the project area. Loss rates were highest during the period from 1956 to 1978. Those high loss rates were associated with hydrologic alterations which allowed salt water to penetrate the fresher marshes. During the transition to a more brackish plant community, large ponds were formed. A narrow strip of land separates those ponds from Lake Pontchartrain. Although the shoreline erosion rates are relatively low, the shoreline is already breached in several areas, and marsh loss in the interior ponds is expected to increase if the shoreline fails.

Restoration Strategy

The goal of this project is to re-create marsh habitat in the open water behind the shoreline. This new marsh will maintain the lake-rim function along this section of the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain by preventing the formation of breaches into the interior marsh.

Sediment will be dredged from Lake Pontchartrain, contained in cells within the interior ponds, and planted with vegetation to create approximately 437 acres of marsh. In addition, 114 acres of degraded marsh will be nourished with dredged material. Marsh will be created to widen the shoreline so that the ponds will not be breached during the course of normal shoreline retreat.



View looking south toward Lake Pontchartrain showing the narrow strip of shoreline between the lake and the interior marsh pond near Point Platte.

Progress to Date

The Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force approved funding for engineering and design at their January 2004 meeting. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be working with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources to conduct the engineering and design for the project.

This project is on Priority Project List 13.

For more project information, please contact:










Federal Sponsor:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Lafayette, LA
(337) 291-3100

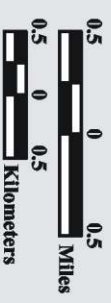
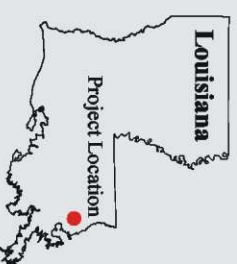


Local Sponsor:
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 342-7308

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-  Containment Dike*
 -  Marsh Creation*
 -  Marsh Nourishment*
 -  Big Branch Marsh
 -  National Wildlife Refuge
 -  St. Tammany Wildlife Management Area
 -  Project Boundary
- *denotes proposed features

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Map Produced By:
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
Coastal Restoration Field Station
Background Imagery:
1998 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangle
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